

Criminal Defense Attorney with Mr. Takura Nyamfukudza, Charlier & Nyamfukudza, P.L.C.

Keywords

Alleged – A word describing something that has not been proven in court.

Attorney – A professional who has earned a law degree, passed the bar exam, and is licensed by the State Bar of Michigan to practice law in the state. Also known as a lawyer or counsel.

Client – A person who asks for legal advice and/or representation in court from an attorney.

Counselor-at-Law – An attorney.

Crime – Violation of criminal law punishable by imprisonment and/or a fine and/or costs (money).

Criminal Justice – Laws, procedures, institutions (including courts), and policies related to crime and its consequences. Criminals and crime victims have certain rights, and prosecution and punishment must follow set laws.

Law Firm – A group of lawyers who are in business together.

Law School – A three-year course of study after earning a bachelor's (undergraduate) degree; schools must be accredited (officially approved) by the American Bar Association.

Major – A field of study at the undergraduate level with requirements to assure a student has a particular level of knowledge.

Manage Expectations – To explain in advance what can be achieved or what is allowed under the law and court rules so the client has reasonable expectations. For example, an attorney might explain to a client why certain types of evidence cannot be presented in court.

Michigan Court Rules (MCR) – Rules adopted by the Michigan Supreme Court for Michigan's legal system. The rules and procedures ensure cases are resolved without undue delay and those who appear in court receive due process and equal treatment under the law.

Prison – A place for persons convicted of serious crimes, called felonies, under the jurisdiction of the state or federal government. In comparison, jail is for persons awaiting trial or convicted of less serious crimes, called misdemeanors, which are under the jurisdiction of local government.

Probation – Allowing a person convicted of an offense to remain in the community instead of going to detention, jail, or prison, as long as the offender fulfills the conditions of the probation. One's probation is usually supervised by a probation officer. If a person violates probation, probation can be revoked and the defendant resentenced.

Probation Officer – In juvenile and district court matters, an employee of the court who is responsible for supervising offenders sentenced to probation. In adult circuit court (felony cases), probation officers may also be parole officers and are employees of the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Zealous Advocate – Describes an attorney defending a client's rights guaranteed under law.

For more definitions, see the Michigan Judicial Institute's [Handbook of Legal Terms](#).